

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 5352

E.O. 11652: N/A
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IOS: PORG, EAIR, ICAO, AR
SUBJECT: ELECTION OF REPLACEMENT FOR ICAO COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MONTREAL FOR ICAO REP

REF: STATE 161710

1. BINAGHI'S DEPARTURE AND FORTHCOMING ELECTION AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISCUSSED AUGUST 6 WITH AIR FORCE MAJOR GENERAL KLIX, "CHIEF OF AIR REGIONS", WHO HAS CONTROLLING RESPONSIBILITY IN GOA FOR ICAO MATTERS. KLIX KNOWS BINAGHI WELL, AND HAD CONVERSATION WITH HIM SOME TWO MONTHS AGO ON BINAGHI'S DEPARTURE. KLIX VOLUNTEERED HIS VIEW ON BINAGHI'S MOTIVATION FOR LEAVING ICAO EARLY WHICH WAS THAT BINAGHI FELT AFTER 18 YEARS HE HAD DONE MORE THAN HIS PART FOR ICAO, HE WAS DISTRESSED AT THE CREEPING POLITICIZATION OF THE ORGANIZATION AND WANTED TO LEAVE BEFORE MAJOR CONFRONTATIONS DEVELOPED AND/OR ICAO LOST ITS FOCUS ON TECHNICAL AND SECURITY AVIATION AFFAIRS.

2. KLIX SAYS GOA ENTIRELY IN AGREEMENT WITH US VIEWS ON STABILITY IN LEADERSHIP OF ICAO AND DESIRABILITY OF KEEPING IT ON THE TRACKS (PARA 3, REFTEL). HE AND GOA READY TO SUPPORT US IN THIS. NEVERTHELESS, KLIX SAID HE AND HIS ASSOCIATES NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT THIS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED. GOA DOES NOT, RPT NOT, YET HAVE

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IN MIND ANY CANDIDATE TO SUPPORT FOR EITHER PRESIDENCY OR

SECRETARY-GENERALSHIP AND KLIX WOULD BE VERY INTERESTED IN HAVING US IDEAS. HE AGREES IT ESSENTIAL TO HAVE STRONG, AVIATION-ORIENTED PERSONALITY EITHER AS PRESIDENT, OR AS SECRETARY-GENERAL BACKING UP KOTAITE.

3. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT KLIX, GIVEN BINACHI'S LONG TERM IN OFFICE AS WELL AS THE CONTINUING STRONG GOA PRESENCE IN ICAO, IS UNLIKELY TO TAKE THE LEAD IN EITHER PROPOSING OR RUSHING TO SUPPORT ANY CANDIDATE. GIVEN HIS COMMON VIEWS WITH US ON SUITABLE CANDIDATE, WE THINK GOA--IN MOST CIRCUMSTANCES--WOULD JOIN US IN CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT WHOEVER US EVENTUALLY PICKS.

4. KLIX WAS AWARE THAT PRC HAS SOME PLAN UP SLEEVE FOR POLICY REVIEW BUT KNEW NOTHING OF DETAILS. HE VIEWS PRC AS MAIN SOURCE OF TROUBLE AT THIS ASSEMBLY. HE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FURTHER FROM US BOTH ON BINAGHI'S REPLACEMENT AND US VIEWS ON OTHER ISSUES AT THE ASSEMBLY. HE SAID HE WOULD CONTACT ECONCOUNS AS SOON AS GOA MAKES ANY DECISION ON A CANDIDATE.

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